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briefly, yet adequately, defined. The book is an excellent commentary on the Constitution and on its eighteen amendments. Clear explanations of constitutional or legal terminology place the understanding of our governmental system within the reach of all. An appendix contains the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, chosen topics and questions for study, and a list of useful books for the further investigation of our government. There is a capital index. S. L. WARE.

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IBSEN IN ENGLAND. By Miriam Franc. Boston: The Four Seas Company. 1919. Pp. 195.

This is a useful little book, less so in point of style than as regards organization and content. Ibsen's influence made its way slowly at first in England, but the intelligent and faithful propaganda in behalf of the great Norwegian's work, conducted by such men as Edmund Gosse and William Archer, at length broke down opposing prejudices, to the steady betterment of contemporary English drama. Nine out of the ten essays of any importance on Ibsen produced in England between 1872 and 1879 were written by Gosse. In 1880 Ibsen was still practically unknown there, but by 1889 his eventual acceptance was assured. William Archer's famous translations, which he began in 1880 and approximately completed in 1908, and the translator's sturdy battles in defence and exposition of his friend Ibsen, against such opponents as Clement Scott, J. F. Nesbit, Alfred Watson, Marie Corelli, *et al.*, quickened much the rising interest alike of critics, dramatists and public. Other supporters whose word helped win Ibsen's way were Arthur Bingham Walkley, Addison Bright, E. F. Spence, Joseph Knight, Arthur Symons, George Moore and Henry James. The chief credit as literary and dramatic prophets, however, should go to Gosse and Archer. Then, too, came George Bernard Shaw into the lists—that 'Hibernian edition of Ibsen'—with his ready acceptance and challenging espousal of the master; an espousal which, we fear, if not too enthusiastic, is at least too carelessly combative, too neglectfully point-missing, in his book, *The Quintessence of Ibsenism*.

The most important chapter among the seven which make up Miss Franc's book is that which deals with Ibsen's influence upon the contemporary English drama. It exhibits study and thoughtful deduction. Miss Franc rightly finds that Pinero, Jones, Shaw and Galsworthy stand in the central stream of Ibsen's influence, although the last-named receives that influence as filtered through Hauptmann. She finds also that Ibsen "was a dramatic reformer who ventilated the theatre with draughts of fresh thought. He swept from the stage the false sentimentality and moral shams that had reigned there." "The modern social drama was born with Ibsen." He "brought to the English stage a spirit of iconoclasm, the use of realism, symbolism, the drama of social ideas and an unexcelled technique." For ourselves, we should say that Ibsen's work shows a really extraordinary power to equilibrate the three prime interests of modern drama, which we should designate as subjectivism, symbolism (especially, of course, in his riper plays), and socialism (in the sense of a fresh preoccupation with questions of social reform). Miss Franc rather over-estimates, we think, his influence, considerable as it was, upon the Irish dramatic revival.

Regrettable slips in syntax, style and even spelling occur on pages 31, 33, 41, 50, 74, etc. Chapter Six, dealing with "Parodies and Sequels", appears for the most part critically superfluous.

G. H. C.

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AMERICA AND THE NEW ERA. A Symposium on Social Reconstruction. Edited by Elisha M. Friedman. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1920. Pp. xxx, 500.

The number of scientifically written books on reconstruction now appearing in our country is an encouraging sign to those of us who are asking ourselves whether the public spirit, the national thrift and the administrative efficiency pushed forward and developed in our midst by the World War, will continue, in some measure at least, to animate our civic body.

Nowhere does mere caste count for less than with us. Nowhere has social—and not merely political—democracy been pushed so far. Yet powerfully organized unions, both of capitalists and of workingmen, threaten the welfare of the rest of